

VLC media player

VLC media player (previously the **VideoLAN Client**) is a [free and open-source](#), [portable](#), [cross-platform media player software](#) and [streaming media server](#) developed by the [VideoLAN project](#). VLC is available for desktop [operating systems](#) and [mobile platforms](#), such as [Android](#), [iOS](#) and [iPadOS](#). VLC is also available on [digital distribution platforms](#) such as [Apple's App Store](#), [Google Play](#), and [Microsoft Store](#).

VLC supports many [audio- and video-compression](#) methods and [file formats](#), including [DVD-Video](#), [Video CD](#), and [streaming-protocols](#). It is able to stream media over [computer networks](#) and can [transcode](#) multimedia files.^[13]

The default distribution of VLC includes many free decoding and encoding libraries, avoiding the need for finding/calibrating proprietary plugins. The [libavcodec](#) library from the [FFmpeg](#) project provides many of VLC's codecs, but the player mainly^[14] uses its own [muxers](#) and demuxers. It also has its own protocol implementations. It also gained distinction as the first player to support playback of [encrypted DVDs](#) on [Linux](#) and [macOS](#) by using the [libdvdcss](#) DVD decryption library; however, this library is legally controversial and is not included in many [software repositories](#) of [Linux distributions](#) as a result.^{[15][16]} It is available on iOS under the [MPLv2](#).^[17]

History

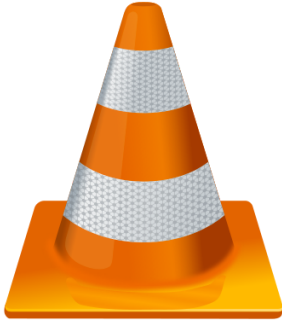
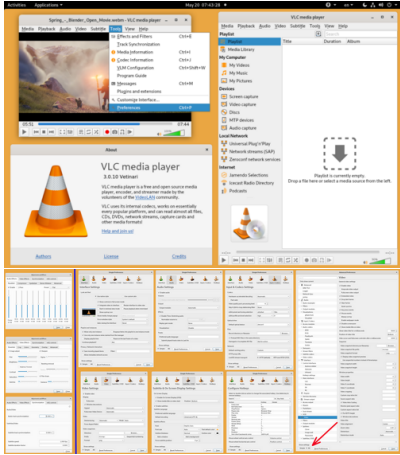
The VideoLAN software originated as a French academic project in 1996. VLC used to stand for "VideoLAN Client" when VLC was a client of the VideoLAN project. Since VLC is no longer merely a client, that [initialism](#) no longer applies.^{[18][19]} It was intended to consist of a client and server^[20] to stream videos from satellite dishes across a campus network. Originally developed by students at the [École Centrale Paris](#), it is now developed by contributors worldwide and is coordinated by [VideoLAN](#), a [non-profit](#) organization. Rewritten from scratch in 1998, it was released under [GNU General Public License](#) on February 1, 2001, with authorization from the headmaster of the [École Centrale Paris](#). The functionality of the server-program, *VideoLan Server* (VLS), has mostly been subsumed into VLC and has been deprecated.^[21] The project name has been changed to *VLC media player* because there is no longer a client/server infrastructure.

The cone icon used in VLC is a reference to the [traffic cones](#) collected by École Centrale's Networking Students' Association.^[22] The cone icon design was changed from a hand drawn low resolution icon to a higher resolution [CGI-rendered](#) version in 2005, illustrated by Richard Øiestad.

In 2007 the VLC project decided, for [license compatibility](#) reasons, not to upgrade to the just-released [GPLv3](#).^[23] After 13 years of development, version 1.0.0 of VLC media player was

released on July 7, 2009.^[24] Work began on VLC for [Android](#) in 2010 and it has been available for Android devices on the [Google Play](#) store since 2011.^{[25][26]} In September 2010, a company named "Applidium" developed a VLC port for [iOS](#) under GPLv2 with the endorsement of the VLC project, which was accepted by Apple for their App Store.^{[27][28]} In January 2011, after VLC developer Rémi Denis-Courmont's complaint to Apple about the [licensing conflict](#) between the VLC's GPLv2 and the App store's policies,^[29] the VLC had been withdrawn from the [Apple App Store](#) by Apple.^[30] Subsequently, in October 2011 the VLC authors began to [relicense](#) the engine parts of VLC from the [GPL-2.0-or-later](#) to the [LGPL-2.1-or-later](#) to achieve better [license compatibility](#), for instance with the Apple App Store.^{[31][32][33][34]} In July 2013 the VLC application could be resubmitted to the [iOS App Store](#) under the [MPL-2.0](#).^[35] Version 2.0.0 of VLC media player was released on February 18, 2012.^{[36][37]} The version for the [Windows Store](#) was released on March 13, 2014. Support for [Windows RT](#), [Windows Phone](#) and [Xbox One](#) were added later.^[38] As of 2016 VLC is the third in the [sourceforge.net](#) overall download count,^[39] and there have been more than 6 billion downloads.^[40]

Version 3.0 was in development for Windows, Linux and macOS since June 2016^[41] and released in February 2018.^[42] It contains many new features including [Chromecast](#) output support (except subtitles^[43]), [hardware-accelerated](#) decoding enabled by default, [4K](#) and [8K](#) playback, 10-bit and [HDR playback](#), [360° video](#) and 3D audio, audio passthrough

VLC media player  Logo used since 2005	
 VLC 3.0.10 (running on Linux and GNOME, playing Spring, a short film by the Blender Foundation) with its preferences and effects	
Developer(s)	VideoLAN
Initial release	February 1, 2001 ^[1]
Stable release(s) [±] (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Latest_stable_software_release/VLC_media_player?action=edit)	

for HD audio codecs, [BD-J](#) menu support, and local network drive browsing.

In December 2017 the [European Parliament](#) approved a budget that funds a [bug bounty program](#) for VLC to improve the EU's IT infrastructure.^[44]

In January 2025, the VLC project revealed a demonstration at [CES 2025](#) displaying offline [AI-powered translation](#) and [subtitling](#) in the software.^{[45][46][47]}

Release history

Starting with version 1.1.0, VLC release codenames refer to characters from [Terry Pratchett](#)'s *Discworld* novels; an exception is release 2.2.1, which came out shortly after Pratchett's death on March 12, 2015, and which was codenamed *Terry Pratchett* in honor of the author himself.

Windows, Linux, & macOS	3.0.21 ^[2]  / 5 June 2024
Android	3.6.3 ^[3]  / 31 January 2025
ChromeOS	1.7.3 ^[4]  / 23 December 2015
iOS, Apple TV	3.6.4 ^[5]  / 23 August 2024
Windows (UWP)	3.1.2 / 20 July 2018 ^{[6][7]}
Windows Phone	3.1.2 / 20 July 2018 ^[8]
Repository	code.videolan.org/videolan/vlc (https://code.videolan.org/videolan/vlc)
Written in	Core: C GUI: C++ (with Qt), Objective-C (with Cocoa), Swift , Java Bundled Extensions: Lua ^[9]
Operating system	Windows , Windows Phone , ReactOS , macOS , Linux , Android , Android TV , ChromeOS , iOS , iPadOS , tvOS , watchOS , Xbox system software
Platform	IA-32 , x86-64 , ARM , ARM64 , MIPS , PowerPC
Available in	106 languages ^[10]

Version ^[48]	Codename ^[49]	Release date
1.0.0	Goldeneye	2009-07-07
1.0.1		2009-07-28
1.0.2		2009-09-22
1.0.3		2009-10-31
1.0.4		2009-12-10
1.0.5		2010-01-31
1.0.6		2010-04-21
1.1.0	The Luggage	2010-06-22
1.1.1		2010-07-21
1.1.2		2010-07-29
1.1.3		2010-08-18
1.1.4		2010-08-27
1.1.5		2010-11-13
1.1.6		2011-01-23
1.1.7		2011-02-01
1.1.8		2011-03-23
1.1.9		2011-04-12
1.1.10		2011-06-06
1.1.11		2011-07-15
1.1.12		2011-10-06
1.1.13		2011-12-20
2.0.0	Twoflower	2012-02-18
2.0.1		2012-03-19
2.0.2		2012-07-01
2.0.3		2012-07-19
2.0.4		2012-10-18
2.0.5		2012-12-15
2.0.6		2013-04-11
2.0.7		2013-06-10
2.0.8		2013-07-29
2.0.9		2013-11-05
2.0.10		2014-02-21
2.1.0	Rincewind	2013-09-26
2.1.1		2013-11-14
2.1.2		2013-12-10

Type	Media player
License	GPL-2.0-or-later with some libraries under LGPL-2.1-or-later ^[11] VLC for iOS (MPLv2.0)
Website	videolan.org/vlc (http://www.videolan.org/vlc/)

Version ^[48]	Codename ^[49]	Release date
2.1.3		2014-02-04
2.1.4		2014-02-21
2.1.5		2014-07-26
2.2.0	Weatherwax	2015-02-27
2.2.1	Terry Pratchett	2015-04-16
2.2.2	Weatherwax	2016-02-06
2.2.3		2016-05-03
2.2.4		2016-06-05
2.2.5.1		2017-05-12
2.2.6		2017-05-24
2.2.7		2017-11-21
2.2.8		2017-12-05
3.0.0	Vetinari	2018-02-09
3.0.1		2018-02-28
3.0.2		2018-04-23
3.0.3		2018-05-29
3.0.4		2018-08-31
3.0.5		2018-12-27
3.0.6		2019-01-10
3.0.7		2019-06-07
3.0.8		2019-08-19
3.0.10		2020-04-28
3.0.11		2020-06-16
3.0.11.1		2020-07-29
3.0.12		2021-01-18
3.0.13		2021-05-10
3.0.14		2021-05-11
3.0.16		2021-06-21
3.0.17		2022-04-19
3.0.18		2022-11-29
3.0.19		2023-09-30
3.0.20		2023-11-01
3.0.21		2024-06-05
4.0.x	Otto Chriek	

Design principles

Modular design

VLC, like most [multimedia frameworks](#), has a very [modular](#) design which makes it easier to include modules/plugins for new file formats, codecs, interfaces, or streaming methods. VLC 1.0.0 has more than 380 modules.^[50] The VLC core creates its own graph of modules dynamically, depending on the situation: input protocol, input file format, input codec, video card capabilities and other parameters. In VLC, almost everything is a module, like interfaces, video and audio outputs, controls, scalers, codecs, and audio/[video filters](#).

Interfaces



Keyboard map (basic)

The default [GUI](#) is based on [Be API](#) on [BeOS](#), [Cocoa](#) for macOS, and [Qt 5](#) for Linux and Windows, but all give a similar standard interface. The old default [GUI](#) was based on [wxWidgets](#) on Linux and Windows.^[51] VLC supports highly customizable [skins](#) through the skins2 interface,^[52] and also supports [Winamp 2](#) and [XMMS](#) skins.^[53] Skins are not supported in the macOS version.^[54] VLC has [ncurses](#),^[55] remote control,^[56] and [telnet](#)^[57] [console](#) interfaces. There is also an [HTTP](#)^[58] interface, as well as interfaces for mouse gestures and keyboard [hotkeys](#).^[59]

Features

Effects (desktop version)

The desktop version of VLC media player has some filters that can distort, rotate, split, [deinterlace](#), and mirror videos as well as create display walls or add a logo overlay during playback. It can also output video as [ASCII art](#).

An interactive zoom feature allows magnifying into video during playback.^[60] Still images can be extracted from video at original resolution,^[61] and individual frames can be stepped through, although only in forward direction.^[62]

Playback can be gamified by splitting the picture inside the viewport into draggable [puzzle](#)

pieces, where the row and column count can be set as desired.^[63]

For audio playback, this feature includes an equalizer and other filters that help customize sound quality.

Formats

Because VLC is a [packet-based](#) media player it plays almost all video content. Even some damaged, incomplete, or unfinished files can be played, such as those still downloading via a [peer-to-peer](#) (P2P) network. It also plays m2t [MPEG transport streams](#) (.TS) files while they are still being digitized from an [HDV](#) camera via a [FireWire](#) cable, making it possible to monitor the video as it is being recorded. The player can also use libcdio to access [.iso](#) files so that users can play files on a [disk image](#), even if the user's operating system cannot work directly with [.iso](#) images.

VLC supports all audio and video formats supported by [libavcodec](#) and [libavformat](#). This means that VLC can play back [H.264](#) or [MPEG-4 Part 2](#) video as well as support [FLV](#) or [MXF](#) file formats "out of the box" using FFmpeg's libraries. Alternatively, VLC has modules for codecs that are not based on FFmpeg's libraries. VLC is one of the [free software](#) DVD players that ignore [DVD region coding](#) on [RPC-1](#) firmware drives, making it a [region-free player](#). However, it does not do the same on [RPC-2](#) firmware drives, as in these cases the region coding is enforced by the drive itself, however, it can still [brute-force](#) the [CSS](#) encryption to play a foreign-region DVD on an RPC-2 drive.

VLC media player can play [high-definition](#) recordings of [D-VHS](#) tapes duplicated to a computer using CapDVHS .exe. This offers another way to archive all D-VHS tapes with the DRM copy freely tag. Using a [FireWire](#) connection from cable boxes to computers, VLC can stream live, unencrypted content to a monitor or HDTV. VLC media player can display the playing video as the [desktop wallpaper](#), like [Windows DreamScene](#), by using [DirectX](#), only available on Windows operating systems. VLC media player can record the desktop and save the stream as a file, allowing the user to create [screencasts](#).^{[64][65][66]} On Microsoft Windows, VLC also supports the Direct Media Object (DMO) framework and can thus make use of some third-party [DLLs](#) (Dynamic-link library). On most platforms, VLC can tune into and view DVB-C, DVB-T, and DVB-S channels. On macOS the separate EyeTV plugin is required, on Windows it requires the card's BDA Drivers.

VLC can be installed or run directly from a [USB flash drive](#) or other external drive. VLC can be extended through scripting; it uses the [Lua](#) scripting language.^{[67][68]} VLC can play videos in the [AVCHD](#) format, a highly compressed format used in recent [HD](#) camcorders. VLC can generate a

number of [music visualization](#) displays. The program is able to convert media files into various supported formats.^[69]

Both desktop and mobile releases are equipped with an [audio equalizer](#).^[70]

Christmas logo

A red Santa hat appears on top of VLC's traffic-cone logo during Christmas seasons.^[71]

Keyboard shortcuts

The keyboard shortcuts are described in the VLC media player "Preferences". On a Microsoft Windows PC open the Preferences by pressing Ctrl + p. Then click on the "Hotkeys" menu (top right of the screen).

There are single-button shortcuts in VLC that don't require Ctrl or Alt button.

For example, pressing keys F and G while a video file is running in VLC shifts the file's audio/video sync for 50 millisecond per adjustment.^[72] This is useful to fix an issue with the sound being ahead or lagging behind the video.

Operating system compatibility

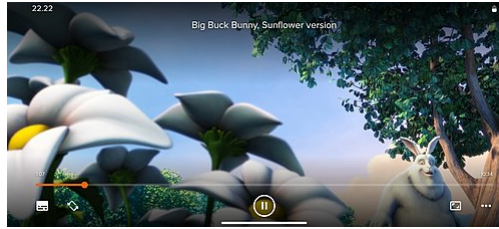
VLC media player is [cross-platform](#), with versions for [Windows](#), [macOS](#), [Linux](#), [iOS](#), [Android](#), [tvOS](#), [ChromeOS](#), [Windows Phone](#), various [BSD-based](#) systems, [Solaris](#), [BeOS](#), [OS/2](#), and [Syllable](#).^[73]

However, forward and backward compatibility between versions of VLC media player and different versions of OSES are not maintained over more than a few generations.^[74] [64-bit](#) builds are available for 64-bit Windows, starting with version 2.0.1.^{[75][76]}

Windows 8 and 10 support

The VLC port for [Windows 8](#) and [Windows 10](#) is backed by a [crowdfunding](#) campaign on [Kickstarter](#) to add support for a new GUI based on Microsoft's [Metro design language](#), that will run on the [Windows Runtime](#). All the existing features including video filters, subtitle support, and an equalizer are present in Windows 8.^[77] A beta version of VLC for Windows 8 was released to the [Microsoft Store](#) on March 13, 2014.^[78] A [universal app](#) was created for Windows 8, 8.1, 10, Windows Phone 8, 8.1 and Windows 10 Mobile.

Android support



VLC media player on Android

In May 2012, the VLC team stated that a version of VLC for [Android](#) was being developed.^[79] The stable release version 1.0 was made available on [Google Play](#) on December 8, 2014.^[80]

Use of VLC with other programs

Bindings

Several [APIs](#) can connect to VLC and use its functionality:

- libVLC API – the VLC Core, for [C](#) and [C++](#).^[82]
- VLCKit – an Objective-C framework for macOS^[83]
- LibVLCSharp – Crossplatform [.NET](#) bindings to libVLC ([C#](#)/[F#](#)/[VB](#))^[84]
- [JavaScript](#) API – the evolution of ActiveX API and Firefox integration^[85]
- [D-Bus](#) controls^[86]
- [Go](#) bindings^[87]
- [Python](#) controls^[88]
- [Java](#) API^[89]
- [DirectShow](#) filters^[90]
- [Delphi/Pascal](#) API: PasLibVlc by Robert Jędrzejczyk^[91]
- [Free Pascal](#) bindings and an [OOP](#) wrapper component, via the libvlc.pp and vlc.pp units. This comes standard with the Free Pascal Compiler as of November 6, 2012.^[92]
- The [Phonon](#) multimedia API for [Qt](#) and [KDE](#) applications can optionally use VLC as a backend.^[93]

libVLC	
Developer(s)	VideoLAN Project
Initial release	February 1, 2001
Stable release	3.0.10 ^[81]
Repository	code.videolan.org/videolan/vlc (https://code.videolan.org/videolan/vlc)
Written in	C
Type	Multimedia Library
License	LGPL-2.1-or-later
Website	wiki.videolan.org/LibVLC (https://wiki.videolan.org/LibVLC)

Applications that use libVLC

VLC can handle some incomplete files and in some cases can be used to preview files being downloaded. Several programs make use of this, including eMule and [KCeasy](#). The free/open-source Internet television application [Miro](#) also uses VLC code. [HandBrake](#), an open-source video encoder, used to load [libdvdcss](#) from VLC Media Player.^[94] Easy Subtitles Synchronizer, a [freeware](#) subtitle editing program for Windows, uses VLC to preview the video with the edited subtitles.^[95]

Format support

Input formats

VLC can read many formats, depending on the [operating system](#) it is running on, including:^[96]

- **Container formats:** [3GP](#),^[a] [ASF](#), [AVI](#), [DVR-MS](#), [FLV](#), [Matroska](#) (MKV), [MIDI](#),^[b] [QuickTime File Format](#), [MP4](#), [Ogg](#), [OGM](#), [WAV](#), [MPEG-2](#) (ES, PS, TS, PVA, [MP3](#)), [AIFF](#), Raw audio, Raw DV, [MXF](#), [VOB](#), [RM](#), [Blu-ray](#), [DVD-Video](#), [VCD](#), [SVCD](#), [CD-DA](#), [DVB](#), [HEIF](#), [AVIF](#)
- **Audio coding formats:** [AAC](#), [AC3](#), [ALAC](#), [AMR](#),^[a] [ATRAC3](#), [DTS](#), [DV Audio](#), [E-AC-3](#), [FLAC](#), [It](#), [MACE](#), [MIDI](#), [MOD](#), [Monkey's Audio](#), [MP2](#), [MP3](#), [Musepack](#), [Opus](#),^[97] [PLS](#), [QCP](#), [QDM2/QDMC](#), [RealAudio](#),^[c] [Speex](#), [Screamtracker 3/S3M](#), [TTA](#), [Vorbis](#), [WavPack](#),^[d] [WMA](#) (WMA 1/2, WMA 3 partially),^[98] [XM](#)
- **Capture devices:** [Video4Linux](#) (on Linux), [DirectShow](#) (on Windows), Desktop ([screencast](#)), Digital TV ([DVB-C](#), [DVB-S](#), [DVB-T](#), [DVB-S2](#), [DVB-T2](#), [ATSC](#), [Clear QAM](#))
- **Network protocols:** [FTP](#), [HTTP](#), [MMS](#), [RSS/Atom](#), [RTMP](#), [RTP](#) (unicast or multicast), [RTSP](#), [UDP](#), [Sat-IP](#), [Smooth Streaming](#)
- **Network streaming formats:** [Apple HLS](#), [Flash RTMP](#), [MPEG-DASH](#), [MPEG Transport Stream](#), [RTP/RTSP](#) ISMA/3GPP PSS, Windows Media MMS
- **Subtitles:** [Advanced SubStation Alpha](#), [Closed Captions](#), [DVB](#), [DVD-Video](#), [MPEG-4 Timed Text](#), [MPL2](#),^[e] [OGM](#), [SubStation Alpha](#), [SubRip](#), [SVCD](#), [Teletext](#),^[e] [Text file](#), [VobSub](#), [WebVTT](#), [TTML](#)
- **Video coding formats:** [Cinepak](#), [Dirac](#), [DV](#), [H.263](#), [H.264/MPEG-4 AVC](#), [H.265/MPEG HEVC](#),^[36] [AV1](#), [HuffyUV](#), [Indeo 3](#),^[f] [MJPEG](#), [MPEG-1](#), [MPEG-2](#), [MPEG-4 Part 2](#), [RealVideo 3&4](#),^[g] [Sorenson](#), [Theora](#), [VC-1](#),^[h] [VP5](#),^[h] [VP6](#),^[h] [VP8](#), [VP9](#),^[36] [DNxHD](#), [ProRes](#) and some [WMV](#).
- **Digital Camcorder formats:** [MOD](#) and [TOD](#) via USB.

Output formats

VLC can [transcode](#) or [stream](#) audio and video into several formats depending on the operating system, including:

- Container formats: [ASF](#), [AVI](#), [FLAC](#), [FLV](#),^[e] [Fraps](#),^[e] [Matroska](#), [MP4](#), [MPJPEG](#), [MPEG-2 \(ES, MP3\)](#), [Ogg](#), [PS](#), [PVA](#), [QuickTime File Format](#), [TS](#), [WAV](#), [WebM](#)
- Audio coding formats: [AAC](#), [AC-3](#), [DV Audio](#), [FLAC](#), [MP3](#),^[i] [Speex](#), [Vorbis](#)
- Streaming protocols: [HTTP](#), [MMS](#), [RTSP](#), [RTP](#), [UDP](#)
- Video coding formats: [Dirac](#), [DV](#), [H.263](#), [H.264/MPEG-4 AVC](#), [H.265/MPEG-H HEVC](#), [MJPEG](#), [MPEG-1](#), [MPEG-2](#), [MPEG-4 Part 2](#), [Theora](#), [VP5](#),^[h] [VP6](#), [VP8](#),^[h] [VP9](#)^[36]

Legality

The VLC media player software installers for the macOS platform and the Windows platform include the [libdvdcss DVD decryption library](#), even though this library may be legally restricted in certain jurisdictions.^{[99][100]}

India

In May 2022, it was reported by [MediaNama](#) that VLC was banned in India and its website was inaccessible from India under the provisions of the [Information Technology Act, 2000](#).^[101] Neither the developers nor the Indian government offered any explanation to the ban, according to [India Today](#). The official VideoLAN Twitter account stated in August that the website was blocked in India from 13 February 2022.^[102] A report by [Hindustan Times](#) indicated that the ban could be due to links with China.^[103] India had in 2020 banned over 200 Chinese apps following the [2020–2022 China–India skirmishes](#).

Another Hindustan Times report from April quoting [Symantec](#) said that Chinese hackers were depending on VLC to launch malware they had previously installed on Windows machines.^[104] The technique they used is called DLL side-loading, in which an external library that a legitimate program loads at runtime is substituted with a modified version containing the malware.^[105]

VideoLan president and lead developer [Jean-Baptiste Kempf](#) said that the block was most likely a result of a misunderstanding of the Chinese security issue.^[106] In October 2022, VideoLan, with assistance from the Indian digital rights organization [Internet Freedom Foundation](#) sent a legal notice to the Indian government asking for an explanation for the block order, following which the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology removed the ban in November 2022^[107]

without the Indian Government providing any reason as to why it was blocked in the first place.
[108]

United States

The VLC media player software is able to read audio and video data from DVDs that incorporate [Content Scramble System](#) (CSS) encryption, even though the VLC media player software lacks a CSS decryption license.^[109] The unauthorized decryption of CSS-encrypted DVD content or unauthorized distribution of CSS decryption tools may violate the US [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#).^[109]

Decryption of CSS-encrypted DVD content has been temporarily authorized for certain purposes (such as [documentary filmmaking](#) that uses short portions of DVD content for criticism or commentary) under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act [anticircumvention exemptions](#) that were issued by the [US Copyright Office](#) in 2010.^[110] However, these exemptions do not change the DMCA's ban on the distribution of CSS decryption tools; including those distributed with VLC.^[111]

See also



- [Comparison of video player software](#)
- [List of codecs](#)
- [List of music software](#)
- [Animated ASCII art](#) - VLC can output [ASCII animation](#) through the [Libcaca](#) module

Explanatory notes

- Until VLC 1.1.0, to use AMR as audio codec, VLC and FFmpeg had to be compiled with AMR support. This is because the AMR license is not compatible with the VLC license.
- This feature needs [sound fonts](#) and might not work on every OS.
- RealAudio playback is provided through the FFmpeg library which only supports the Cook (RealAudio G2 / RealAudio 8) decoder at the moment.
- As of 2010, only supported in mono and stereo, so no multichannel support.
- This is present in 0.9.0 and newer version.
- Indeo 4 and 5 codecs are not supported.

- g. From 0.9.9 and over.
- h. This is from the 0.8.6 version.
- i. VLC must be compiled with mp3lame support.

References

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.videolan.org/vlc/\)](https://www.videolan.org/vlc/) 